



Policies and Procedures

Thank you for the opportunity to share a wonderful experience with your child here at our ANC Thanksgiving Camp. We hope camp proves to be an exciting and educational experience. Students will learn about conservation practices, natural history, and Alabama's wildlife while enjoying hands-on activities such as nature walks, archery, canoeing, fishing, animal encounters, animal track casting, searching for salamander and crawfish, and much more. The following are the Alabama Nature Center's policies and procedures.

Drop-Off: Campers may be dropped off at the ANC NaturePlex between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. daily. During this time, campers will be supervised by counselors and participate in crafts, games and other activities.

Pick-Up: Campers must be picked up between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. at the ANC NaturePlex unless otherwise noted. This pick-up time is very important as our gate will only remain open for this short window. Written notification must be provided in order for the child to leave with anyone other than the parent/guardian. Please call Mr. Matt Vines, Camp Director at either 334-285-4550 or 334-538-1500 with any questions.

Extended Care: If you elected the Extended Care option at registration (+\$25) then your camper may arrive any time after 7:30 am. Evening pickup is no later than 6:00 pm when our gate is scheduled to close.

Weather Emergency Procedures: In case of weather emergency, camp activities will cease and all participants will gather at the NaturePlex facility. In cases of extreme weather, all staff and campers will move into emergency shelter locations (already identified) within the NaturePlex facility. Parents will be contacted if campers are to be released early from the program. In case of medical emergency, the parent(s) will be immediately notified.

Behavioral Issues: The Alabama Nature Center will use a three-strike discipline system. On the first offense, campers will be asked to sit out of the group activity. Parents will be called after the second offense. A camper committing any offense three times warrants permanent dismissal from the ANC Thanksgiving Camp Program.

Camp Zero Tolerance Behavior

The following behavior will NOT be tolerated at camp and are grounds for immediate removal from camp for the rest of that camp day and additional days if deemed necessary by the Camp Director. The following behavior can also result in complete removal from the ANC Thanksgiving Camp Program. Behavior issues are evaluated on a case by case basis. If suspension or removal from the ANC Thanksgiving Camp Program are issued, the behavior will be documented in a behavior report.

- Endangering the health or safety of campers, volunteers, or staff
- Inappropriate touching of other campers or sexual misconduct
- Physical assault of any kind including biting, pushing, kicking, spitting on, or hitting a camper, volunteer, or staff member
- Threats or acts of physical harm, mental harm and bullying
- Leaving the ANC Summer Camp Program or leaving the assigned group without permission
- Using inappropriate language including profanity, obscenities, or vulgarity
- Damage, destruction, vandalism, or theft of ANC property or personal property

Fireworks, knives, and matches are not permitted. Please do not bring toys, electronics, or large sums of money. Except for special permission, cell phones and electronics will be confiscated if seen by camp staff and given back at the end of the day. Alabama Nature Center is not responsible for lost items and/or money.

COVID-19: Due to COVID-19 related circumstances we ask that if you or your child are experiencing any symptoms outlined by the CDC, that your child not attend camp. We will continue increased sanitation efforts during camp. If your child has any allergies to specific disinfectants/sanitizers please let Matt or Amber know. Campers will not be required to wear a mask during camp but campers are more than welcome to bring and wear a mask if the parent chooses. We ask that you have a conversation with your child(ren) about distancing from others in addition to washing their hands frequently. We ask that you encourage not to hug, hold hands, etc... We will also talk with all of the kids once they arrive about distancing.

Possible Symptoms of COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Congestion or runny noses
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Tested positive for COVID-19

Family Emergencies: If you have an emergency and need to pick up your child from camp during regular camp hours, PLEASE call the office at (334) 285-4550 before arriving to let us know that you are on your way. This will allow us time to retrieve your child from distant parts of our property prior to your arrival.

Injury and Illness: The Alabama Nature Center reserves the right to release a child if he or she appears too ill to participate in the Spring Break Camp program or is considered contagious. The Alabama Nature Center will notify the child's parent or emergency contact and request the child be picked up. The Alabama Nature Center is not authorized to dispense any medication to campers. No prescription or over-the-counter medications may be given while at camp.

Registration: The ANC Thanksgiving Camp Program is for students ages 6-12. **Campers need to bring their own lunch** but snacks and drinks are available for purchase.

What to Bring: It is encouraged that each camper bring a daypack containing the following items: sunscreen, sneakers (not sandals), water shoes, socks, bug repellent, and a change of clothes. Appropriate dress for campers includes shorts, a t-shirt, and closed-toed shoes. Some campers may choose to wear a hat. Campers should not wear flip flops or sandals. Some camp sessions involve creek explorations and campers will not be allowed in the creek without closed-toed shoes. Campers may bring a snack and drink or may purchase snacks at the Bear Den in the NaturePlex (all snacks/drinks \$1).

Please label all of your child's belongings.

Cancellations: The Alabama Nature Center must be notified two weeks prior to the camp session for a full refund. If notification is given less than two weeks prior to the beginning of the camp session, a 50% refund will be given.

Guardian Name: _____ **Date:** _____